

# THE TRIBUNE

For The Tribune.

A PORTRAIT.

A LOVELY maid is she.

Whose calm, white-brow the Angel's hands

Hath bound with purest pearl bands

Exceeding fair to see—

Through her clear dimpling cheek

The tenderest rose-color steals

And her dewy, dove-like eye reveals

Those beauties, beautiful and meek.

Musie most sweet and low

For ever on her soft lip lies—

Ever in her wavy fingers—

She bears an Olive-bough;

Her form is full of grace;

Her feet like Hug-riding bring

Of good will to each living thing

Know ye her name? 'tis Peace. E. J. I.

## CONVERSATIONAL MEETINGS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE.

SUBJECTS—Professor MARSH in the Chair, H. M. M. Secretary.

Among these experiments made in this City, with wooden pavements none have been properly conducted.

It is true almost every kind of bottom or substratum has been used, but in no instance have the blocks been properly prepared before being put down.

As a proof that wooden pavements may be used under some circumstances, the streets of St. Petersburg, in Russia, are paved with wooden blocks, and they, there, have been found to answer the purpose perfectly well.

The experiment, made in Broadway, has three varieties of preparation; one-third has a substratum of stones, one-third of the ordinary pavement and one-third a MacAdamized bottom. After the blocks were laid down, their upper surface was grouted with tar and covered with gravel and building sand.

The blocks, however, had received no previous preparation to prevent their decay.

A Member present stated the cause of wood cracking and decaying. He said that the aqueous portions of the tree contained the constituents of the sap in solution; as the watery particles were evaporated from the outer surface of the tree, thus remaining retired towards the center of the sap; then when the bark became perfectly dry, the capillary tubes were completely filled with solid matter. If at any future period this solid matter should receive moisture, it would swell with an uncontrollable force, and thus the empty capillary tubes forming the outer coating of the block were rent asunder. In other cases, where the outer angular rings were inclined to expand rather than crack, the pent-up sap containing a small quantity of saccharine matter or its constituents began to ferment and decay, or rot was the consequence.

*Mode of Preservation proposed.*—If wood be surrounded with a very weak solution of the bicarbonate of Mercury, (*corroborate subtilis*) a change in the character of the solid parts of the sap will be effected.

It will no longer swell from moisture, and consequently will neither crack nor decay. Or, if the blocks be held under ordinary plumber's solder, or any other metal fusible, at a low heat, all the moisture as well as the air contained in the capillary tubes will be driven off, and the sap perfectly condensed, so that the block may be suddenly transferred from this under the surface of liquid carbonic acid.

The passage of the atmosphere will force this coal tar into all its capillary tubes. Block first kyanized, afterwards applied to the above process, and then placed on a substratum that would freely let water pass through it, would be imperishable, or nearly so. After the blocks are laid, they should be covered and grouted with hot tar, over which should be placed clear gravel free from stones; a few days wear will force its gravel into the ends of the grain of the wood, thus producing a roughened enameled surface or an indestructible material.

The advantages of wooden pavements are, that carriages create less noise in passing over them, and their cost is much less than granite blocks.

A full account accompanied with engravings of all the patents granted for the different kinds of wooden pavements may be found in the American Repository, vol. 1, p. 102.

With a kind of pavements the substratum must freely pass water; by filtration or the accumulation of water, on freezing in the winter time, will loosen and force up the pavement.

The want of this precaution caused the destruction of the wooden pavement in the upper part of Broadway and Bleeker-street before the blocks had cracked or decayed at all.

Wooden pavements would also be much preserved by slightly carbonizing them.

Many experiments had upon the subject of wooden pavements. They had been several times tried in Europe and abandoned, only from the fact that they would wear smooth and cause horses to slip.

All the experiments in asphaltum pavement which have been tried in this country and elsewhere, were also rejected.

It was stated that Judge Wright had proposed a style of asphaltum pavement differing from the specimens now in our city. Read his paper in the *Journal of the American Institute*, page 100.

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## COMMERCIAL AND MONEY MATTERS.

Sale of the Stock Board—Jan. 16.

50,000 Ohio, \$25—225 Pairs.

100,000 New York, \$25—100 Pairs.

10,000 N. Y., \$25—100 Pairs.

1,000 Kentucky, \$25—200 Pairs.

1,000 Pennsylvania, \$25—100 Pairs.

1,000 Illinois, \$25—100 Pairs.

1,000 Indiana, \$25—100 Pairs.

1,000 Michigan, \$25—100 Pairs.

1,000 Ohio, \$25—100 Pairs.

1,000 Missouri, \$25—100 Pairs.

1,000 Wisconsin, \$25—100 Pairs.

1,000 Iowa, \$25—100 Pairs.

1,000 Minnesota, \$25—100 Pairs.

1,000 Michigan, \$25—100 Pairs.

1,000 Ohio, \$25—100 Pairs.

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